

## Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
/088 W

-----170343Z 063606 /70

R 161600Z MAR 77

FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3283

INFO ALL EC CAPTIALS 3287

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

US MISSION GENEVA 7458

US MISSION NATO 4680

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 2548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB SHUM PINT

SUBJECT: ICFTU ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: EC BRUSSELS 693

1. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) WILL PURSUE ITS CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, OTTO KERSTEN, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY, TOLD A GROUP OF BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES MARCH 15. HE MADE THIS STATEMENT IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING WITH THE COMPLAINT THE ICFTU HAD ANNOUNCED IT WOULD FILE AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA (SEE REFTEL).

2. KERSTEN TURNED TO THE NO. 2 MAN IN THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT, JOHN VANDERVEKEN, TO PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION ON  
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WHAT THEY BOTH CALLED A COMPLICATED ISSUE. VANDERVEKEN SAID THAT THE ICFTU HAD FILED A "REPRESENTATION" ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT HAD ASKED THAT ACTION ON IT SHOULD BE SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. THE REASON, ACCORDING TO VANDERVEKEN, WAS THAT PRESSING ITS COMPLAINT AT THIS TIME WOULD HAVE

CAUSED A "BEUREAUCRATIC BLOCKING" OF A MORE THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTED CASE AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONTAINED IN A REPORT TO BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATIONS OF CONVENTIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE THIS JUNE. THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE, VANDERVEKEN SAID, THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL REPRIMAND CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY PUTTING IT ON THE ILO "SPECIAL LIST" (FORMERLY CALLED ITS BLACKLIST), AND THE ICFTU, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING THE AFL-CIO'S IRVING BROWN, THEREFORE DECIDED TO HOLD ITS OWN COMPLAINT IN ABEYANCE RATHER THAN RISK DELAYING ACTION ON THE REPORT TO THE ILO CONFERENCE.

4. ON LABOR ATTACHE SAID HE HAD HEARD REPORTS OF A "DEAL" WITH THE RUSSIANS, SINCE THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) HAD REQUESTED THE ILO TO SUSPEND ACTION ON A COMPLAINT OF ITS OWN AGAINST THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR ALLEGED POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION IN HIRING. KERSTEN AND VANDERVEKEN SAID THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT PROMPTED THE WFTU'S SECOND THOUGHTS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT NO DEAL HAD BEEN MADE. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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